

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA- 548**

**Phillip Snyder House**

**15627 Dark Hollow Road**

**Upperco, Baltimore County**

**1840 ca.**

**Private**

The Phillip Snyder, Jr. House was constructed circa 1840 near the Fifth District community of Fowblesburg. The building is representative of vernacular stone buildings erected throughout rural Baltimore County in the mid-19th century and dates to the earliest period of settlement in the area around Fowblesburg and Upperco. Between 1877 and 1915, the Western Maryland Railroad was developed through the towns of Fowblesburg and Upperco, resulting in a greater economic vitality throughout the area. During this late 19th and early 20th century period, John H. Armacost resided in the dwelling at 15627 Dark Hollow Road. The Philip Snyder, Jr. House has experienced alterations over the last 100 years.

Nevertheless, the property and surrounding landscape has remained rural through the late 20th century.

The original portion of the Phillip Snyder, Jr. House is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide vernacular dwelling of solid random rubble stone construction with a side gable roof. The façade, or south elevation of this original section features a side entry with a paneled single-leaf wood door with a four-light transom and molded wood surround. Five 6/6 windows pierce the original three bays. Circa 1850, a two-and-a-half-story, two-bay-wide addition was constructed on the west elevation of the original section. This phase of construction included a two-bay-deep ell. A vertical seam on the façade clearly divides these two sections. Two 6/6 windows pierce each story of the circa 1850 addition. The continual side gable roof is clad in standing seam metal and features two reconstructed interior stretcher bond brick chimneys on the gable ends. A third reconstructed stretcher bond brick chimney rises from the gable end of the ell. A five-bay-wide porch with a shed roof supported by Tuscan columns spans the full width of the façade. Circa 1900, a two-story wood frame wing on a solid random rubble stone foundation was added to the east elevation of the main block. The wing is two-bay-wide wing is clad in beaded weatherboard and features a side gable roof clad in standing seam metal and one reconstructed interior gable end stretcher bond brick chimney. Circa 1950, a one-bay-square addition with a solid random rubble stone foundation and one central interior reconstructed stretcher bond brick chimney was constructed on the front of the wing. This addition appears to make use of an earlier foundation. Four historic resources, including two circa 1850 barns, a circa 1850 shed, and a springhouse ruin, and four non-historic resources, including a circa 1970 chicken house, circa 1990 dog shelter and animal shelter, and a circa 1990 in-ground swimming pool, are also located on the property.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 548

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Phillip Snyder, Jr. House (preferred)  
other Charles Armacost House

### 2. Location

street and number 15627 Dark Hollow Road not for publication  
city, town Upperco vicinity  
county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James L.M. and Meriwether H. Morris  
street and number 15627 Dark Hollow Road telephone Not Available  
city, town Upperco state MD zip code 21155

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 12058 folio 534  
city, town Towson tax map 26 tax parcel 35 tax ID number 0501074325

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory  
1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 548

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed circa 1840, the original portion of the Phillip Snyder, Jr. House is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide vernacular dwelling of solid random rubble stone construction with a side gable roof. The façade, or south elevation of this original section features a side entry with a paneled single-leaf wood door with a four-light transom and molded wood surround. Five 6/6 windows pierce the original three bays. Circa 1850, a two-and-a-half-story, two-bay-wide addition was constructed on the west elevation of the original section. This phase of construction included a two-bay-deep ell. A vertical seam on the façade clearly divides these two sections. Two 6/6 windows pierce each story of the circa 1850 addition. The continual side gable roof is clad in standing seam metal and features two reconstructed interior stretcher bond brick chimneys on the gable ends. A third reconstructed stretcher bond brick chimney rises from the gable end of the ell. A five-bay-wide porch with a shed roof supported by Tuscan columns spans the full width of the façade. Circa 1900, a two-story wood frame wing on a solid random rubble stone foundation was added to the east elevation of the main block. The wing is two-bay-wide wing is clad in beaded weatherboard and features a side gable roof clad in standing seam metal and one reconstructed interior gable end stretcher bond brick chimney. Circa 1950, a one-bay-square addition with a solid random rubble stone foundation and one central interior reconstructed stretcher bond brick chimney was constructed on the front of the wing. This addition appears to make use of an earlier foundation. The Phillip Snyder, Jr. House was undergoing construction at the time of the survey, and a large portion of the north elevation of the main block was covered by a tarp. The addition's basement had already been excavated.

The circa 1850 barn is two-and-a-half stories tall with a solid random rubble stone foundation and side gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The wood frame structural system, which is clad in flush vertical board siding, has an overhanging forebay. One-and-a-half-story, shed-roofed wings project from the sides of the barn.

A second barn, which also dates to circa 1850, features a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal and rubble stone pier foundation. The one-and-a-half-story building, which is clad in flush vertical board siding, is two bays wide, with one open bay and a window in the gable peak.

The circa 1850 shed is a one-story wood frame building clad in board-and-batten siding with a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal. A flush-vertical-board double-leaf door pierces the façade.

Next to the shed are the ruins of a springhouse. Only the stone foundation remains.

A one-story wood frame chicken house with a modern stone pier foundation and a side gable roof clad in standing seam metal is located near the two barns. The building is clad in vertical board siding.

The two circa 1990 wood frame buildings, a dog shelter and animal shelter, are clad in vertical board siding. Each features a gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The dog shelter has a brick pier foundation, while the animal shelter has a concrete slab foundation.

The circa 1990 in-ground swimming pool has a square footprint and a concrete deck..

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 548

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1840 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1840 ca., 1850 ca., 1900 ca., 1950 ca., 2001

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Phillip Snyder, Jr. House was constructed circa 1840 near the Fifth District community of Fowblesburg. The building is representative of vernacular stone buildings erected throughout rural Baltimore County in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and dates to the earliest period of settlement in the area around Fowblesburg and Upperco. Although the 1850 county atlas indicates that Fowblesburg, while still a thriving residential community, had not yet been provided a name. By 1877, the small community, named for the Fowble family, included a school house and tavern. The nearby town of Upperco, similarly named for one of the area's predominant families, was the location of a general store and Methodist Episcopal Church. A toll gate was located between the two communities on Hanover Turnpike, a branch of the Baltimore and Reisterstown Turnpike, which replaced the Old Hanover Road as the primary route from Baltimore to Hanover, Pennsylvania. Between 1877 and 1915, the Western Maryland Railroad was developed through the towns of Fowblesburg and Upperco, resulting in a greater economic vitality throughout the area. During this late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century period, John H. Armacost resided in the dwelling at 15627 Dark Hollow Road. The Philip Snyder, Jr. House has experienced alterations over the last 100 years. Nevertheless, the property and surrounding landscape has remained rural through the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Vernacular buildings tend to have little to no stylistic detailing and are typically constructed by local builders with locally available tools and materials. Vernacular architecture accounts for the majority of the built environment and reflects the traditions of society, rather than the whims of the architect.<sup>1</sup> Throughout Baltimore County, there are a number of vernacular stone houses from this period. Stone was readily available in the county, with both marble and granite quarries located throughout the region. Commonly, these random rubble stone dwellings are two stories in height, single-pile with side gable roofs. This continuity of form is a result of folk architecture and the reliance on constructing forms that had been built by the previous generation.

<sup>1</sup> Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, editors, *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986), pp. xv-xvi.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 548

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property One Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name Hampstead Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1840, the Phillip Snyder, Jr. House has been associated with the 129.76 acres of land known as tax parcel 35 of map 26 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

## 11. Form Prepared by

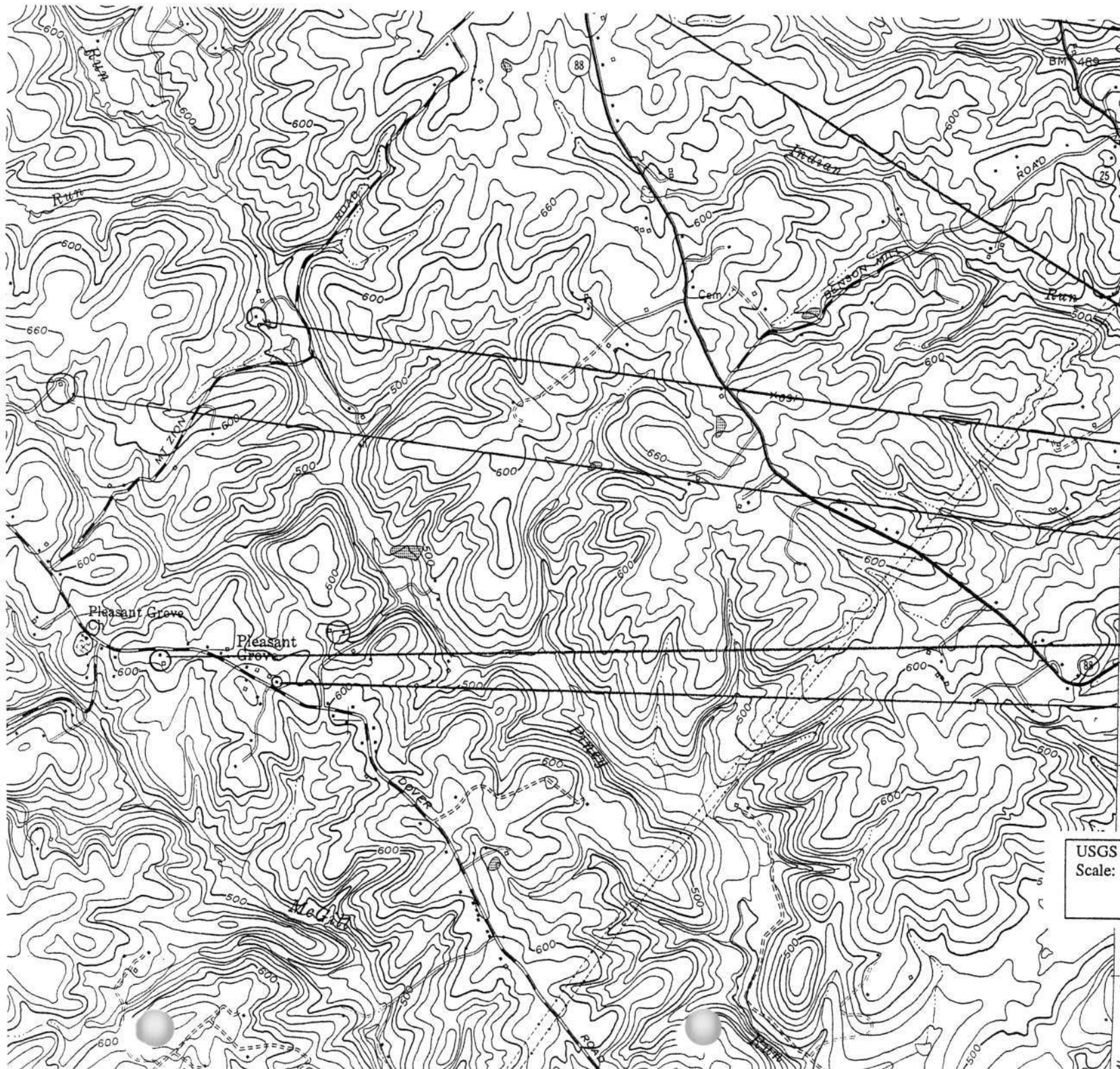
name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 24, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





BA-0484  
3600 BLACK ROCK  
ROAD

BA-0483  
3801 BLACK ROCK  
ROAD

BA-548  
15627 DARK HOLLOW ROAD  
UPPER LO  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0556  
15276 DOVER ROAD

BA-1163  
15225 DOVER ROAD  
REISTERSTOWN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

USGS Quad: HAMPSTEAD  
Scale: 1:24,000



BUTLER 2.5 MI.  
BALTIMORE 20 MI.

(HEREFORD)  
5663 11 SW

0.5 MI. TO MD. 35

32'30"

4378

4377



BA-548

15627 DARK HOLLOW ROAD, UPPERCO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

SW CORNER

10/6





BA-548

15627 DARK HOLLOW ROAD, UPPERCO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

E. ELEVATION

2 of 6



BA-548

19027 DARK HOLLOW ROAD, UPPERCO  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPD

W. ELEVATION

3 of 6





BA-548

15627 DARK HOLLOW ROAD, UPPERCO  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

BARN

4046



BA-540

15627 DAKK HOLLOW ROAD, UPPERCO  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS

5 of 6



BA-548

15627 DARK HOLLOW ROAD, UPPERCO

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

SHED

6 of 6



BA-548

**CHARLES ARMACOST HOUSE** - Before 1850 - North side of Dover Road, 0.3 mile east of Dark Hollow Road. Very large, two-story stone house set far back from road. Shown as Philip Snyder house in 1850 and as John H. Armacost's in 1877. Also a Snyder family cemetery. Owner at time of 1971 tour book was Charles N. Armacost. Gable roof, full-width front porch. Vernacular style. Owner: Ernest D. Levering.